

What is claimed is:

1. A process for preparing N-methyldialkylamines from secondary dialkylamines and formaldehyde at a temperature of from 100 to 200°C,
5 which comprises using from 1.5 to 3 mol of formaldehyde per mole of secondary dialkylamine, degassing the resulting reaction product, removing the aqueous phase and distilling the organic phase.
2. The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein from 1.5 to 2.5 mol of
10 formaldehyde are used per mole of secondary dialkylamine.
3. The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein operation is effected at a temperature of from 120 to 160°C.
- 15 4. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the secondary dialkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated alkyl groups each having from 2 to 20 carbon atoms or having
20 arylalkyl groups each having from 7 to 15 carbon atoms.
5. The process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the secondary dialkylamines used are mixed or symmetrical cycloaliphatic or aliphatic dialkylamines having straight-chain or branched, saturated or unsaturated
25 alkyl groups each having from 2 to 15 carbon atoms, preferably from 2 to 9 carbon atoms.
6. The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3 for preparing N-methyldi-n-butylamine or N-methyldi-n-propylamine.